

The Leesburg Tree Commission met in regular session on Monday, August 21, 2000 at 7:30 p.m. in the Lower Level Meeting Room, 25 West Market Street, Leesburg, Virginia. Members present were: Mr. John Groothuis, Ms. Kathleen Pritchard, Mr. Jim Hicks, Mr. Earle Hower and Mr. Robert Zoldos.

**MINUTES**

The Minutes of the July 19, 2000 meeting were approved as amended.

**OLD BUSINESS**

The Commissioners discussed and revised a memo concerning the planning of a small tree arboretum in the Town of Leesburg to the Mayor and Town Council.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Banks asked the Commissioners if anyone was interested in attending the upcoming workshops, and if they were to get the information back to him ASAP.

**COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

Mr. Hower had the opportunity to attend the Town Council Leadership Retreat on July 26<sup>th</sup>, 2000. On the 29<sup>th</sup> of July he attended Mr. Dana Malone's retirement dinner and Mr. Malone stated that he appreciated the recognition he had received from everyone.

Mr. Hower asked Mr. Zoldos to explain the new policy on the appointments of the Commissioners.

Mr. Zoldos said that the newly elected Council Members get to recommend new members for vacancies on the Boards and Commissions. These nominations will then be brought before the Town Council in September and voted on.

Ms. Pritchard asked if the Town Arborist could give a Tree Pruning Seminar for the Town of Leesburg residents.

Mr. Banks stated that in the past he tried to do seminars, and they failed.

Mr. Zoldos suggested that perhaps Mr. Banks could give a demonstration on the local TV channel.

Ms. Pritchard then asked if there were grants that the Commission should be applying for.

Mr. Banks stated that the Commissioners had all the information that he had.

Mr. Hicks stated that the EAC meeting on August 21<sup>st</sup>, was a very positive and productive one. Most of the meeting was spent working on a vision statement, goals and objectives.

Mr. Zoldos asked what it was that Ms. Burns was going to present to the Commission tonight.

Mr. Banks stated that Ms. Burns was representing the Cool Springs Elementary School PTO to ask that trees be planted to buffer and screen the massive road project (Battlefield Parkway Extension) that will begin shortly near Cool Springs Elementary School.

Mr. Zoldos asked what the status was as far as the Eastern Gateway planting was concerned.

Mr. Banks stated that he is waiting for a VDOT permit.

Mr. Banks stated that the new Heritage High School Site Plan (located on Evergreen Mills) is in for review and the trees in the front will not be saved.

Mr. Banks asked the Commissioners what their thoughts were on Leesburg becoming a Tree Steward.

Ms. Pritchard liked the idea.

Mr. Banks said that it is a very intense program in which you are provided training in pruning and associated tree care. Mr. Banks said that this is the time to invest small amounts of money that will pay big dividends in the future. The Town of Leesburg is in the very early stages of becoming an Urban Forest and this is the time to invest in this type of plan. Mr. Banks would be more than willing to become a trainer for the program, but he still needs volunteers to manage the day-to-day logistics. Mr. Banks would need to have three volunteers to go to the all day workshop on Friday October 27.

There being no further business the Tree Commission adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

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Jay S. Banks, Town Arborist